



ANNUAL MEETING & BUDGET HEARING OF LAC LA BELLE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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Thursday

August 21, 2014 - 7:00 P.M.

Town of Oconomowoc Town Hall

W359 N6812 Brown Street | Oconomowoc | Wisconsin | 53066

"The LLBMD seeks to promote environmentally conscious and fiscally responsible decisions by providing education, enhancing a healthy lake ecosystem and ensuring safe use of Lac LaBelle for today and tomorrow."

Minutes

1. Call to Order

P. Carpenter called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

2. Introduction of Commissioners

Chairperson Paul Carpenter welcomed all present to the Lac La Belle Management District (LLBMD) Annual Meeting. Paul Carpenter, Chairperson; Karen Carr, Secretary; Mike Fitzsimmons, Treasurer; Dan Bauer; and Lou Morgan were present. Dave Zimmermann, County Representative and Vice Chairperson, was also present. The Town of Oconomowoc Representative position was vacant.

3. Lake District Accomplishments

P. Carpenter thanked Commissioners for their volunteer efforts and time spent on the Commission. He then reviewed the activities and accomplishments of the LLBMD in 2014 to date. They included:

- Continuation of the Shoreland Restoration Program (now in its sixth year) in 2014
- Cooperation with other municipalities, DNR Staff and local residents regarding buoy placement issues
- Completion of the Cooperative Streambank Restoration project with participation between the City of Oconomowoc, Town of Oconomowoc, and Village of Lac La Belle
- Supported DNR efforts to host a commercial fisherman for carp remediation efforts yielding 28,000 pounds of carp being removed from the lake
- Participated in a Goose Round-Up resulting in the removal of geese from area properties
- Upgraded the website to provide access to LLBMD activities and provide pertinent information to residents, including links to numerous county and state resources

4. Report on Cooperative Streambank Restoration Project

Tim Clark, Village of Lac La Belle Board President, explained the history of the Cooperative Streambank Restoration project, noting this project involved a land purchase on the Rolling Hills Golf Course, construction of a retention pond on that site with boring under the Highway 16 bypass and numerous approvals by the Departments of Transportation and Natural Resources prior to construction. The project was now complete. The pond banks had been stabilized with grasses growing around it to assist in catching runoff. While he was uncertain all final approvals had been given regarding completion, successful results were assumed because there was significantly less brown silted water flowing into Lac La Belle. Originally it was assumed that it would take a year to see results and he was pleased that progress could already be noted as the water flowed into the lake in times of heavy rainfall.

T. Clark thanked the Commission for its assistance in completing the project as it involved cooperative funding efforts from the Town of Oconomowoc, City of Oconomowoc and the Village of Lac La Belle in equal shares and 40% of the project costs carried by the Lac La Belle Management District. He also stated he appreciated the professional manner in which the project was handled in working across municipal boundaries. To that end, he had noted the project to County Commissioners as an example of cross-community cooperation.

P. Carpenter stated George Stumpf, Village of Lac La Belle Administrator, was instrumental in bringing all parties together and moving the project forward. P. Carpenter appreciated the passion and dedication shown by G. Stumpf in coordinating all parties involved to complete the project.

Lisa Conley, 516 Lac La Belle Drive, agreed, noting she provided water clarity readings each month for Lac La Belle. She had noticed a six inch improvement in the water clarity at the northern end of the lake since the project was completed. While there were still strides to be made, it was nice to see the improvement in water quality so soon.

5. Presentation by Beverly Saunders, Senior Specialist-Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Plan Commission

Beverly Saunders, Senior Specialist of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Plan Commission was present to provide information on the definition of a healthy lake and what aspects should be taken into account for lake planning. B. Saunders then distributed a handout to all present regarding healthy lakes.

B. Saunders explained the definition of a healthy lake was difficult because people had different ideals. She explained some plants were considered “bad” and some plants in the lake were very good with multiple abilities including stabilization of soils, insertion of oxygen into the water columns and creating a habitat for animals and fish. In general,

plants helped to provide water clarity. Many times when people did not like lake plants, it was due to the invasive plants and phosphorus. Phosphorus was present in Wisconsin soils naturally. When soil ended up in the lake through a variety of sources, it became the determining factor for how much algae and plant growth would occur in a lake. It was important to try to find a balance between the right amount of native plants and necessary phosphorus for the plants to thrive. There were three different types of lakes. One type of lake was defined as oligotrophic where there were rocky sandy bottoms and not much muck. These types of lakes were typically found in the northern part of the state.

Mesotrophic lakes were a balance of aquatic plants. There were some open areas but the entire area was not being taken over by plants. Plants grew where a light source was available, so plants in a mesotrophic lake were often around the shoreline. The third type of lake is eutrophic. This type of lake had lots of plants with tons of nutrients, often too much phosphorus, that would cause a great deal of algae and plant life that would use up all the oxygen in the lake. The lake would then begin to “die” and plants would decompose, thereby creating a smelly environment and would begin to turn a lake to a wetland area. These types of lake were usually unnatural without human help as they were very unhealthy areas. This type of lake would frequently occur in a man-made reservoir area where the healthy lake process was sped up. Humans might dam up a river. Soils would get into the lake and then the lake filled with phosphorus. More nutrients would allow for more plants to grow. The plant cycle would cause plants to die back and become sediment that would eventually fill in the lake. In a natural lake this activity might happen over a century and the plants would most likely be removed to remove the biomass. This would slow the process of the lake converting to a wetland area.

Homeowners could also do many things to slow this process. They could install a shoreland buffer through shoreland restoration efforts that would prevent sloughing off of the soils. A larger buffer area was considered better than a smaller one; however, a buffer of five feet could provide filtration. Rain gardens were also beneficial. Allowing native plants to grow along shorelines and pulling out the top heavy invasive plants, such as Eurasian Milfoil were two other helpful methods of restoration. When hand pulling invasive plants, she suggested trying not to fragment the plant as some plants would simply regenerate from the fragment. Another suggestion was to avoid boating at high speeds in shallow areas as the sediment would be churned, plants would be cut and a nutrient rich area of growth was re-established each time this occurred to create an even bigger issue. B. Saunders also suggested encouraging wildlife habitats to flourish and encouraging connectivity between species along the lakeshore. Snakes, reptiles and amphibians were keen indicators of a healthy lake and their lives should be spared if possible. All of these efforts assisted in allowing a healthy lake to remain in balance.

L. Conley questioned whether there were fewer lake weeds in area lakes this year. B. Saunders explained this type of activity was seen in other area lakes, was often cyclical due to cold winters with significant depths of lake ice. L. Conley also noted the phosphorus ban had been reversed in some areas. She encouraged local municipalities to stand behind established ordinances discouraging or prohibiting the use of phosphorus on area

properties.

Joe Collins, 500 Beggs Isle, questioned permissible weed control for shoreland property owners within approximately 100 to 200 feet from their property. B. Saunders explained hand-pulling was allowed up to 30 feet from the property and she encouraged residents to be selective in what was removed from the shoreline. J. Collins also noted the recent presence of well lit boats coming very close to the shoreline during the evening hours. He questioned whether the Commission was aware of any funded programs that would allow these types of activities to take place. P. Carpenter explained this type of fishing activity was often the result of private individuals. He suggested local DNR wardens be contacted regarding this type of activity.

P. Carpenter thanked B. Saunders for her presentation at this meeting.

6. Update on 2014 Shoreland Restoration Program

K. Carr stated there were two participants interested in the Shoreland Restoration program this year. Lisa Reas, consultant for the LLBMD in this project, had visited both sites and talked with property owners to determine the types of plants that could be used for each site. One goal of the Shoreland Restoration Program was to provide education to people regarding the beauty and color of native plants, even utilizing existing riprap and seawalls to create a native shoreland area that would be beautiful and assist in stormwater runoff.

7. Approval of 2013 Annual Meeting Minutes

T. Clark moved to approve the 2013 Annual Meeting minutes as presented. J. Collins seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

8. Approval of Treasurer's Report

P. Carpenter thanked M. Fitzsimmons for his years of service to the District as Treasurer. M. Fitzsimmons's term had expired and he had chosen not to remain on the Board at this time.

M. Fitzsimmons explained the Treasurer's Report for the month of August, 2014, noting a transfer of \$50,000.00 from the money market fund to allow for issuance of funding for the Cooperative Streambank Restoration project. He also noted an audit been completed for the year and was available for review upon request.

Ryan Myhre, 2390 Monastery Hill Drive, moved to approve the August, 2014 Treasurer's Report as presented. Brian Konop, 456 Lac La Belle Drive, seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

M. Fitzsimmons stated payment of the bills was required at this time.

J. Collins moved to approve payment of the bills as shown on the August, 2014 Treasurer's Report. Maggie Konop, 456 Lac La Belle Drive, seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

9. Report Results of Annual Audit

M. Fitzsimmons explained the Annual Audit had been conducted. He thanked R. Myhre for conducting the audit for the District. There was nothing out of line and all looked good regarding audit information presented this year.

10. Review & Approval of 2015 Budget

M. Fitzsimmons reviewed the proposed 2015 Budget and explained it included an error in expenditures noted on the 2014 Annual Meeting & Budget Notice. The total expenditures should have been noted as \$33,000. Total revenue sources were \$45,500. The levy was listed correctly at \$45,000. Expenses had increased marginally due in part to the ongoing commitment with the Village of Lac La Belle to maintain the golf course basin in an accrued escrow of \$2,000 annually. The additional \$12,500 in revenue would be used to gradually allow the District to be adequately positioned when other opportunities presented themselves to enhance lake water quality. P. Carpenter agreed, noting it was nice to have the funds available to participate in projects that would bring meaningful impact to the lake.

T. Clark moved to approve the 2015 Budget as presented. Bob Conley, 516 Lac La Belle Drive, seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

11. Presentation & Approval of Tax Levy

T. Clark motioned to approve the tax levy as proposed in the amount of \$45,000. B. Conley seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

12. Nomination & Election of Commissioners

P. Carpenter explained M. Fitzsimmons was leaving the Commission so there was a position available on the Board.

P. Carpenter nominated Ryan Myhre for the position being vacated by M. Fitzsimmons on the Commission. B. Conley seconded the motion. R. Myhre accepted the nomination. P. Carpenter explained R. Myhre brought outstanding perspective to the Commission in the past when he had lived in the City. He now lived in the Village of Lac La Belle. He also possessed great experience in financial and legal matters. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

P. Carpenter welcomed Ryan Myhre to the Commission. He noted Lou Morgan's term expired as well and Lou would be willing to serve another term on the Commission.

D. Zimmerman questioned whether the Commission should be conducting secret ballots for the Commission positions as noted in the People of the Lakes.

P. Carpenter recessed the meeting at 8:01 P.M. and reconvened at 8:03 P.M.

L. Conley moved to suspend the ballot of the prior motion, dispense with the use of secret ballots for elections at this meeting, and to move approval of the slate of proposed Commissioners including Ryan Myhre and Lou Morgan. B. Konop seconded the motion. Ryan Myhre and Lou Morgan accepted the nomination. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

L. Conley thanked the Commission for their efforts in bringing many projects and improvements to the lake.

13. Adjournment

L. Conley moved to adjourn from the meeting. R. Myhre seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

Minutes prepared by:

Accurate Business Communications, Inc.